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REMARKS

Claims 1-51 were previously cancelled. Claims 52-69 were previously added. Applicant has added one new independent claim to a method for treating a herniated disc. This claim draws support from parent patent no. 5,902,792, filed July 16, 1996.

35 USC §112:

According to the Office Action Claim 68 is rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has amended this claim to provide proper antecedent basis. Based on the foregoing reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Allowable subject matter:

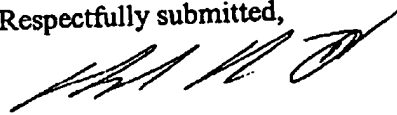
Applicant's attorney wishes to express his gratitude to the Examiner for the indication of the allowable subject matter and withdrawing the finality of the last office action.

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IN CLOSING

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (408) 735-6323.

Respectfully submitted,



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